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NATIONAL INDICATIONS CENTER
ROOM BC 956
PENTAGON

24 June 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman of the Watch Committee

SUBJECT : NIC Staffing Problems

1. As we enter the period of maximum concentration for the warning effort, i.e., the annual Imperialist "paper-tiger" hunting season, I believe you should be aware that the NIC will be operating for some time in the future at a considerably reduced level of efficiency compared with last year. The very excellent team that I inherited from Mr. [] is in the process of dissolution due to the inevitable cycle of rotation and attrition. During the past month we have lost our experienced Senior Representatives from CIA, NSA and ACSI--representing the senior one-third of our nine-man analytical staff. While the replacements for these men already have been designated, so far only the new NSA representative is actually on duty. The CIA man has been due for a month now and the ACSI officer will probably not be available until late July. In any case, all are new to the indications business and some time will be required before they can match the experiences and capabilities of the departing officers. Further, Colonel Hausman, the Center's present Deputy Director, is scheduling his retirement from the USAF for 1 October 1963. I am informed that the Air Force is preparing to submit to us nominations for Colonel Hausman's replacement. Here again, however, we face a net loss of line capability during the transition period.

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2. As you are aware, we operate here on a tri-cycle basis (literally)--a 24-hour cycle of current coverage; a weekly cycle in support of the Watch meeting, and an infinity cycle dealing with the state-of-the-art and other longer range warning matters (e.g., Indicator Lists, Warning Survey, theory, automation, etc.). Our present limited staff will be stretched thin in carrying out the weekly cycle--particularly if, as we anticipate, the scale of international tension steadily rises toward a climax or series of climaxes by fall. Although our theoretical tools are still of early 1961 vintage, it does not appear likely that we can devote an adequate effort toward improving them for some months--at least until our new personnel learn the ropes.

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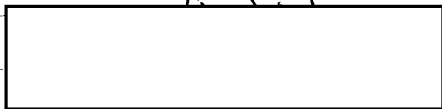
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3. The above situation is pretty much a bi-annual occurrence and the agencies concerned have been most cooperative; OCI even holds open the possibility that an extra Agency body may be available to us. I do feel, however, that you should be aware that our capabilities have appreciably declined. I do feel that State Department should be hit again to honor their commitments in the Center--they have been riding free for a long, long time.



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Director

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